



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



California Department of Transportation Landscape Architects are recognized for excellence in



VISION

innovation and creativity, and providing leadership for collaborative transportation solutions.

Caltrans Landscape Architects focus on enhancing people's quality of life. We strive to integrate transportation facilities with California's communities and the environment by contributing scientific, aesthetic and communication expertise. We strive for excellence in design solutions for all modes of transportation, emphasizing safety, environmental protection, aesthetic and scenic quality, and the integration of community values into transportation projects. In our work we play a vital role in providing a balanced, integrated and multi-modal transportation network for all who live and travel in California.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS ARE CRITICAL TO CALTRANS SUCCESS

INTRO

Caltrans Landscape Architects practice in District offices throughout the state and the Headquarters office in Sacramento.

District Offices

Most landscape architectural work occurs in Design offices, but we also provide expertise in other offices such as Local Assistance, Project Management, Environmental, Construction, and Maintenance. No matter where Landscape Architects perform work, we provide expertise to optimize the traveler experience and improve worker safety through the development of transportation solutions that meet the needs of all users.

Headquarters

The Principal Landscape Architect and staff in the Landscape Architecture Program serve as Program Managers to set policy and guidance, develop training, and implement the Director's Policy on Context Sensitive Solutions. The Landscape Architecture Program manages the Safety Roadside Rest Area Program, provides coordination to Landscape Architects in the districts, develops roadside management standards and policy, manages the State Scenic Highway Program, and implements strategic research and innovative roadside practices.





Landscape Architecture has long influenced the integration of highways with California communities.



HISTORY

Early in the State's history, the California Legislature, recognizing the value of roadside enhancement, enacted a statute to encourage the planting of trees along California's public roads and highways. In 1895, it created the Bureau of Highways to improve the condition of California's roads. One of the first recommendations was to plant trees along the highways to mitigate dust and mud problems. In 1917, highway plantings were recognized as part of a complete highway. Here the foundation of roadside beautification and Transportation Landscape Architecture began.

In 1921, the California Highway Commission recommended that greater attention be given to beautification of the highways and protection and preservation of the roadway and roadside environment.

Over time, the landscape architectural practice expanded to respond to changing transportation demands. In 1936, the Division of Highways hired its first Landscape Architect to create a roadside development program.

The massive effort to build the Interstate Highway System in the 1950's expanded the Landscape Architect's role to find design solutions to fit the new system into the local context. In the 1960's, the Highway Beautification Act and National Environmental Policy Act advanced landscape architectural values as crucial to highway development. New emphasis was placed on the importance of fully considering environmental, scenic, and aesthetic values in developing transportation projects.

In the 1990's, federal transportation policy shifted emphasis, giving State and local governments more flexibility in determining transportation solutions. This allows funding for projects that protect the environment, provide for bicycle and pedestrian mobility, and promote highway beautification.

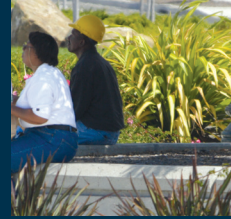
Caltrans Landscape Architects employ Context Sensitive Solution principles to ensure stakeholders are involved early and continuously on projects to balance transportation goals with community and environmental values.

CALTRANS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

PROVIDE EXPERTISE IN A SPECIALIZED AREA

NOW & FUTURE

We contribute to the development of transportation corridors that are safe, functional, and beautiful, reflecting current and emerging aspects of landscape architecture, environmental planning and management. Our goal is to optimize user safety and integrate the transportation corridor with its setting to create an aesthetic travel experience.




OF THE PROFESSION — TRANSPORTATION LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

We use innovative tools and techniques to foster creative interaction between Caltrans and communities to ensure highways coexist harmoniously with the natural and built environment.

We are the lead professionals responsible for the design of highway roadsides. We provide project development teams with expertise in the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of transportation system improvements that:

- Balance safety, mobility, maintainability and economic needs with adjacent land use and aesthetic, environmental, scenic and community values;
- Address the needs of motorized and non-motorized travelers;
- Maximize traveler and worker safety;
- Preserve and enhance the environment through sustainable solutions.



Caltrans Landscape Architects are innovative in advancing our profession. We solve problems as part of a team implementing best practices and methodologies for successful stewardship of the transportation system environment.

SKILLS

- Highway Planting and Irrigation
- Erosion Control, Revegetation and Habitat Restoration
- Safety Roadside Rest Areas, Vista Points, and Park and Ride Lots
- Visual Impact Assessment
- Corridor Master Plans and Mobility Needs
- Transportation Art
- Community Recognition
- Roadside Management
- Scenic Highways
- Research and Innovation



‘Context Sensitive Solutions’ is a collaborative process between stakeholders to integrate the highway with the natural, built and cultural environments. This collaboration is the hallmark of an exemplary project development effort creating balanced solutions.

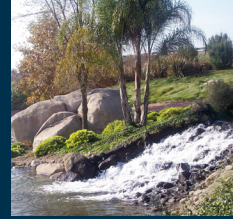


Highway Planting and Irrigation — Roadside planting integrates roadways into the local settings. We plan and design these features to enhance the traveler experience, improve roadway safety and aesthetics, and optimize environmental mitigation.

Erosion Control, Revegetation and Habitat Restoration — These structural and vegetative solutions mitigate impacts of transportation facilities on land forms, and plant and animal communities. We plan and design roadside improvements to reduce stormwater pollution and erosion, and restore habitat connectivity.

Safety Roadside Rest Areas, Vista Points, and Park and Ride Lots — Safety roadside rest areas provide safe stopping opportunities for travelers to take a break from driving. We are responsible for developing and implementing a statewide rest area system master plan, and leading design teams for specific rest area projects. We also design vista points, and park and ride lots to provide traveler services.

Visual Impact Assessment — We prepare assessments as part of the environmental process to provide analysis of potential changes to the visual environment along highway corridors due to transportation projects. We perform these studies to document expected change, assess public reaction, create visual simulations, and provide solutions to mitigate negative impacts.



Corridor Master Plans and Mobility Needs — Caltrans' goal is to maximize transportation system performance and accessibility. Master plans describe specific improvement approaches and themes and guide public and private sector transportation decisions. We address mobility needs and develop Corridor Master Plans in collaboration with other transportation and civic groups to achieve wide public support and address the needs of all system users.

Transportation Art — Transportation Art is used on freestanding structures or placed on highway features such as sound walls, retaining walls, bridges, or slope paving to express something special about a community's history, resources or character. We lead the effort to include graphic or sculptural artwork within the transportation system.

Community Recognition — Community Recognition conveys information about a region and provides visual representation of a community's identity, including its history, resources or other defining characteristics. We collaborate with local communities in the development of design elements on new or existing highway features such as sound walls, retaining walls, bridges, bridge abutments, bridge rails, and slope paving.

Roadside Management — Effective roadside management reduces ongoing maintenance efforts, cost, and improves worker safety. We plan the placement of roadside features to reduce worker exposure to traffic, and use appropriate vegetation and design elements to optimize weed control and reduce herbicide use.

Scenic Highways — This Program contributes to the protection of scenic corridors of outstanding beauty that reflect the State's important natural resources. We are responsible for managing California's Scenic Highway Program.

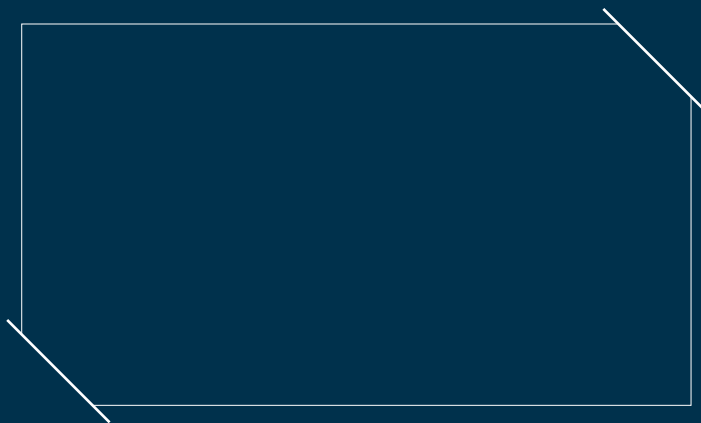
Research and Innovation — Our professional practices are advanced through research and implementation of developing technologies and methodologies. We lead the nation in implementing innovative and creative solutions to transportation issues.







QUALITY TRANSPORTATION
PROJECTS DEPEND ON THE
EXPERTISE OF CALTRANS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS





Caltrans Landscape Architecture Program:
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/>

